(e) what are the rationale behind change in Government's stand in telecast of Pakistan TV?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Till 2.6.99 Pakistan TV channel was being retransmitted in India through cable networks.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During Kargil conflict, there was a marked increase in anti-Indian broadcast by PTV. Apart from denigrating the country and its Armed Forces, these broadcasts by PTV raised serious apprehensions about inciting communal discord in the country. Considering the gravity of the situation, all state Governments were advised on 2.6.1999, to prohibit transmission of PTV through cable networks under section 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

(e) when the conflict between the two countries subsided, the matter was reconsidered in the changed scenario and all the State Governments were advised on 21.10.1999 to reconsider the prohibition on PTV, imposed by them earlier.

Disturbance to the listeners of AIR in NER

427. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the facts that the listeners of our AIR in the North East States are frequently disturbed by the neighbouring countries Radio Stations like China and Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to control such disturbance to our AIR's listeners of North East States?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. There are no interference in the area within the coverage zone of AIR transmitters operating in the Media Wave band. However, interferences are possible outside the coverage area.

(b) The power of the Medium Wave transmitters is being upgraded, wherever possible, depending on availability of funds and ITU authorization.

Pending contempt of Courts cases in various courts

428. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of contempt of courts pending in various courts at present, court-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to review the contempt of Court Act 1971;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to make the provisions of this Act more stringent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Available information is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Various provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 were reviewed in pursuance of the suggestion of the P.C. Jain Commission set up to review the Administrative Laws and it was decided not to amend the said Act of 1971 for the present.

Statement

Pendency of Contempt of Court Cases

Name of the Court	Pendency as on	Admission Matters (actual number of files)	Regular Matters	TOTAL
Supreme Court of India	1.5.2000	188	157	345

	HIGH COURTS	Pendency as on	Civil	Criminal	TOTAL
1.	Allahabad	12/99	0	28827	28827
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12/99	1680	0	1680
3.	Bombay	12/99	219	76	295
4.	Calcutta	12/99	2581	0	2581
5.	Delhi	12/99	2209	186	2395
6.	Guwahati	12/98	1778	22	1800
7.	Gujarat	12/98	0	3	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12/99	33	1	34
9.	J&K	12/99	3569	52	3621
10.	Karnataka	12/99	1411	0	1411

	HIGH COURTS	Pendency as on	Civil	Criminal	TOTAL
11	Kerala	12/99	210	0	210
12	Madhya Pradesh	12/99	689	36	725
13	Madras	12/99	865	0	865
14	Orissa	12/99	2132	0	2132
15	Patna	9/99	5426	60	5486
16	Punjab and Haryana	12/99	2478	50	2528
17	Rajasthan	9/99	1113	25	1138
18	Sikkim	12/99	0	6	6
	GRAND TOTAL:		26393	29344	55737

Amendment in Civil Procedure Code

429. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to amend the Civil Procedure Code in order to lessen the lengthy procedure involved in the legal process;

(b) whether the new Bill envisages use of private agencies for serving notices and recording of rule by Commissioners appointed by the Court;

(c) whether the other changes include fixing a time limit for completing arguments and time frame for delivery of judgment; and

(d) if so, when is this amendment likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2000 and is pending for consideration and passing in Parliament.